

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 CPR-01 SS-15 CU-02 SY-04 USSS-00

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P 231615Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1638

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NEA/EGY FOR MATTHEWS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BARSOUM, ALBERT)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF STATE BARSOUM

REF STATE 13922

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS, ALBERT BARSOUM, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JANUARY 23 TO INFORM HIM OF VISIT TO US. STARTING JANUARY 28.

2. BARSOUM WAS INVITED ATTEND NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST THROUGH REP JOHN DELLENBACK. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION, FAWZI RIAD, A DELLENBACK FRIEND.

3. MINISTER AND PARTY WILL DEPART CAIRO MORNING JAN 28 VIA TWA 841 WITH SCHEDULED ARRIVAL NEW YORK 1610 SAME DAY. REQUEST DEPT ARRANGE FOR APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AT AIRPORT. HIS PLANS CALL FOR PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON ON NATIONAL FLIGHT 403 THAT EVENING. FOLLOWING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WHERE HE INTENDS TO SPEND THREE-FOUR DAYS, BARSOUM PLANS TO GO TO NY CITY FOR SIMILAR PERIOD. HE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF EGYPTIAN COPTIC COMMUNITY AND ALSO HOPES TO MEET AMERICAN YMCA OFFICIALS. BARSOUM CLAIMS TO BE ACTIVE IN YMCA AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY

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IN ALEXANDRIA.

4. SUGGEST THAT NEA/EGY CONTACT BOTH REP DELLENBACK AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL TO FIND OUT WHAT PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR BARSOUM AND TO OFFER ASSISTANCE, BOTH FOR WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK (WITH YMCA). WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH CONGRESSMAN DELLENBACK, DEPT MIGHT SUGGEST THAT, IF PRESIDENT FORD ATTENDS PRAYER BREAKFAST, EFFORTS BE MADE TO ARRANGE FOR BARSOUM TO SHAKE THE PRESIDENT'S HAND.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IF A LUNCHEON COULD BE GIVEN FOR BARSOUM BY ONE OF THE SENIOR DEPT OFFICIALS, PERHAPS DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL OR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO. IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, THIS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. EMBASSY ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT A MEETING BE ARRANGED WITH ASST SECRETARY AHERTON.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SPECIAL EFFORT TO ACCORD ATTENTION PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MINISTER OF STATE WOULD HAVE VERY FAVORABLE IMPACT IN EGYPT, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THAT BODY. WE FEEL BARSOUM'S VISIT PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER OUR POLICY OF PROMOTING CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.
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